Western University · Faculty of Arts and Humanities · Department of Visual Arts

INTRO TO DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY VASTUDIO2246B

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Class Wednesday 10:00 am (Online)
Office Hours Tuesdays 12:00-1:00 pm (Online)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This online OWL course is a comprehensive examination of digital photographic approaches and studio production in the context of contemporary art. Students will explore the creative and communicative potential of the camera, post-production environment, and modes of presentation and dissemination. Technical demonstrations and workshops will provide students with a wide range of versatile tools and approaches through which ideas may be explored and developed. Studio production and experimentation will be complemented by a series of online live lectures, readings, online forum discussions, and online critiques aimed at developing critical response skills, conceptual foundations, language appropriate for image evaluation and analysis, as well as a more thorough understanding of historical and contemporary discourses surrounding the photographic image in the context of art production. No prior experience with computer technology is required, as this is an introductory course intended to prepare students for further study and exploration with digital media. Each online module will begin with exercises and demonstrations that will outline and reinforce basic and essential skill sets before moving on to more advanced content.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

There are seven primary learning outcomes for this online Intro to Digital Photography class. By the end of this course, you will be able to:

· Effectively use a digital SLR camera in manual and semi-manual shooting modes

· Understand and use various software applications for image processing, organization and manipulation

· Understand the historical development of fine art photography in order to contextualize and locate their own contemporary art practices

· Engage in critical issues surrounding both historical and contemporary photographic discourses

· Articulate their ideas and intents in a clear and effective manner

· Analyze and provide constructive and critical feedback on the work of others

· Demonstrate appropriate vocabulary and strategies of assessment for photographic imagery

Prerequisite(s): VAS 1020 or VAS 1025.

TEACHING METHODS AND DELIVERY

This is an online OWL course. The variety of formats used in this online class includes technical and theoretical lectures, project work, personal reflections, group discussion, presentations and online modules. The teaching methodology is concerned with ingraining theoretical knowledge through practical experience. Students will also be required to spend a minimum of 10 hours/week developing techniques and strategies introduced in the course, conducting independent research, completing assigned projects, and preparing for discussions and presentations.

Students are expected to demonstrate an attitude of respectful criticality and active engagement at all times, and contribute to the creation of a collegial and productive learning environment. It is recommended that you read the "Critique Strategies" document.

Connecting with classmates

As part of this online course, you have been assigned to a group of 4-6 other students. This will be your group for the duration of the class. You will also connect with your classmates through live lectures and class critiques. We will utilize Zoom for live lectures, Drop Box to turn in assignments and VoiceThread for group forum discussions and critiques.

Being a part of the group offers you the opportunity to discuss, share, reflect, and get feedback from other students regarding the course materials, readings,

assignments, and projects.

Course Lessons

The course is divided into 13 lessons; each lesson is designed to be a mix of live online lectures, reading text and linked articles, watching video tutorials, completing a short 'toolbox' technical assignments, and taking a quiz. Lessons are organized to move in a specific sequence and build upon one another, so it's important that you complete each chapter as assigned, in the week in which it is assigned. Don't lag behind!

STUDENT COURSE LOAD: What to Expect

Each week's lesson will start with a "What to Expect" page. Here you will be given a brief overview of the lesson contents, readings, and assignments and the approximate time it will take you to complete them. Depending if you are already familiar with a technique or if you need more time to go through materials, you may find that it takes you less or more time than estimated. Use the time estimates and your understanding of how you work best to plan your week and give yourself enough time to get everything done as assigned.

You will start a new lesson each Wednesday at 10 AM. The lesson content, including linked articles, videos, quizzes, and 'toolbox' technical assignments and/or group assignments for the week are due on the following Wednesday at 10 AM. You must complete the week's lesson and assignments within the week. Late assignments will not be accepted.

Class Time: As an online course, the assigned modules will require 3 to 6 hours per week, in lieu of in-class time. Some classes will require you login to our zoom meeting for a live lecture.

Prep Time: Assignments and projects will require an additional 3 to 6 hours per week. Refer to the "What to Expect" page at the beginning of each chapter to help you plan your time each week.

BIBLIOGRAPHY/RECOMMENDED READINGS
There are several required and suggested readings and many other resources (video, audio interview, links, infographics, etc.) included throughout the course.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & MATERIALS
• PC or Mac (iPad, tablet or phone not acceptable for this class)
• Access to Photoshop CC 2018 and Lightroom CC Classic; Students are responsible CC subscription cost ($9.99USD per month w/ annual subscription)
• Strong internet signal
• Active UWO e-mail address
• All readings will be uploaded to OWL in PDF format
• DSLR camera with manual controls (The Visual Arts Department has a number of these units for sign-out. If you are unsure as to whether or not a particular model will be suitable for the class, contact your instructor. Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the particulars of their camera's interface, as individualized instruction in this area is not provided)

Module Projects
There are three module projects in this course and they are designed to incorporate ideas and methods learned both in class and through independent research, practice and experimentation. Students are encouraged to challenge themselves to explore, personalize, and expand on the creative potential of these skill sets. Student performance will be evaluated in terms of technical proficiency, conceptual focus, synthesis/presentation, as well as work ethic/development. Emphasis will be placed on serious engagement with relevant and challenging ideas. Furthermore, students will be expected to think critically and respond to the historical and contemporary issues presented in class. For more information on the assessment of project work, see the departmental rubric included with this syllabus.

A penalty of 5% per day will be deducted from module projects that are submitted late, or those not presented in the required format. Studio projects, presentations, and written work will be considered incomplete and late if items on the Due Date Checklist included with each module project description are missing from the submission package. It is the student's responsibility to remain informed as to submission details and requirements. Module projects submitted more than two weeks late without official documentation (see UNDERGRADUATE POLICIES section for details) will not be accepted, and will receive a grade of zero.

Course Summary

Date	Details	Due